



News Release

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Workers at South Bend's Craft Tool and Mold, Inc. eligible for federal aid

INDIANAPOLIS (November 29, 2006) – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of South Bend's Craft Tool and Mold, Inc. are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

The TAA program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with the Department of Labor and it must be approved before benefits can be released. The investigation began October 26, 2006, in response to a petition filed on behalf of workers.

The Department of Labor investigation revealed that plant sales, production and employment declined during the relevant period. The Department of Labor conducted a survey of Craft's declining customers regarding their purchases of steel molds during 2004, 2005 and January through September 2006 over the corresponding 2005 period. The survey revealed customers increased their reliance on imported steel molds during the relevant period.

Consequently, workers at the South Bend plant qualified for TAA benefits and the findings were certified on November 17, 2006. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after October 24, 2005 through November 17, 2008 is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at South Bend's Craft Tool and Mold, Inc. facility. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Eligible parties may contact the South Bend WorkOne at (574) 237-9675, or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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